

UP chairman shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A Union Parishad (UP) chairman was shot dead Sunday night by unidentified armed assailants in Dharmaghar area in Kutukchhari in the Sadar upazila, some 25 kilometers from the district town.

Quoting family members, police and locals said three unidentified men carrying arms came to the house of Gayana Lal Chakma, 37, who is chairman of Kutukchhari Union Parishad, and asked him to go with them. As they went about one kilometer from Gayana Lal's house, the assailants fired several shots, killing him on the spot. He son is the son of Ananda Shova Chakma.

Police yesterday morning recovered his body bearing marks of several bullet injuries and cut marks. His two hands were tied behind.

Neighbors claimed that some unidentified persons sent a 'chit' to his (Gayana) wife earlier, demanding Tk 2 lakh.

Autopsy of the body was done at Rangamati General Hospital yesterday. A case was lodged with Kotwali police station, Sub Inspector Humayun Kabir said.

Gayana Lal Chakma was elected chairman of Kutukchhari UP for the second time.

He left behind his wife and two minor daughters.

Two bombs recovered in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday morning recovered two powerful hand bombs from the house of Gazi Kamrul Islam, a 'listed criminal' at Bandikati village in Paikgachha upazila.

But, police could not arrest him as he escaped from the house a few minutes before the raid.

Meanwhile, joint forces arrested two 'listed criminals' from Batiaghata upazila Sunday mid-night.

The arrested are Nizamuddin and Mesbauddin. Police said both of them were wanted in three criminal cases.

Joint forces also demolished an illegal fish processing factory owned by Gurupada Sarker, an absconding criminal. He established the factory at Hatbati village in Batiaghata upazila without legal authority.

According to police, Gurupada Sarker is wanted in six criminal cases filed with Batiaghata Police Station.

LAST 4 YEARS OF HAJEE DADESH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

Teachers, officials urge CA to probe 'irregularities'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Leaders of teachers and employees' associations at Hajee Dadesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in a written statement has urged the education advisor to caretaker government to probe alleged corruption and irregularities by its authorities from April 2002 to August 2006.

Dr. Md. Mosarraf Hossain Miah was the VC during the period. He is now VC of Mymenshig Agriculture University.

Signatories to the statement are HSTU Teachers Council president Dr. Prof Abdul Hamid and its secretary Prof. Hasanuzzaman; Officers Council president Dr Nazul Islam and Staff Council president Zinnat Hossain.

In the statement they alleged that rampant corruption, embezzlement of funds in the name of development work, political appoint-

ments and nepotism during the period ruined the academic atmosphere on the campus and urged the caretaker government to bring the offenders to book after a thorough and impartial probe.

The statement signed on January 25 was available to this correspondent yesterday. After preparing and signing the statement, the four leaders had planned to hold a press conference but postponed it at the request of VC Motahar Hossain Mondol, Teachers Council president Dr. Prof Abdul Hamid told this correspondent yesterday. Dr. Motahar Hossain Mondal joined as VC on September 3 last year.

In the statement the four leaders alleged that 400 people including 57 lecturers were recruited during the tenure of the former vice-chancellor on political considerations without any proper advertisement.

A circular seeking application was however published in a national daily giving only three days time to apply, which was a trick to serve the purpose, the statement said.

Of the 400 employees, services of 97 including 11 teachers are yet to be regularised by the University Grants Commission (UGC). But the 97 employees are getting salaries from the university fund, sources said.

The sources claimed that a chaotic situation started since the former technical institute was upgraded to a university in 2001.

The statement also alleged that the HSTU land purchase committee headed by an executive engineer misappropriated fund. HSTU acquired 12.4938 acres of land at a cost of about Tk 6.00 crore in 2003 and 2004.

It also mentioned that a diploma engineer appointed on political

consideration now holds the post of executive engineer, violating HSTU employment code.

The university authorities also awarded printing work worth about Tk 2 crore to a certain printing press without any tender.

It also alleged that Tk 1.3cr also misappropriated while constructing the Zia Hall involving Tk 10 crore.

The irregularities were protested by former army chief Lt. Gen. (Rt.) Mahbubur Rahman at several meeting of HSTU Regent Board, but to no effect.

As his protests were ignored, Gen. Mahbub resigned as a Regent Board member on December 31, 2005. He handed over his resignation letter to former education minister Dr Osman Faruk in Dhaka.

Gen. Mahbub in his resignation letter alleged that the HSTU authorities were involved in corruption, nepotism and other irregularities. Academic atmosphere on the campus deteriorated over the years due to lack of transparency and accountability by the administration. Appointments on political consideration tarnished the image of the university, he said in his resignation letter, sources close to him said.

Several clashes also took place on the campus between students and teachers over political appointments, sources said.

On October 5, 2005, agitated students locked the administrative building and kept the Registrar and some teachers confined in a room as the authorities did not pay any heed to their complaints against two "politically appointed teachers".

Dr. Mossarraf Hossain Miah could not be contacted for comments despite repeated attempts over cell phone.



A city of rickshaws virtually turned free of the three-wheelers yesterday. The voluntary withdrawal of illegal rickshaws follows an announcement of a drive against them, made Sunday by Sylhet Metropolitan Police. City Corporation sources said they issued about 4000 licences but their number was anybody's guess.

3 PCJSS men killed in 2 weeks UPDF blamed in Khagrachhari for violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

At least three activists of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghaty Samity (PCJSS) were killed in gun fire allegedly by rival activists belonging to United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in Khagrachhari in last two weeks. Some others were also injured in the incidents.

Tension mounted in the hills as violence between the rivals increased abruptly.

According to police sources, Rinku Kumar Chakma, 30, son of

Sneha Kumar Chakma of Hasinsonpur village in Dighinala upazila was shot dead while he was visiting his fish farm at Chongrachhari village in the same upazila at around 6 am on January 16. He was an activist of Jubo Samity, a youth front of Parbattya Chattagram Janasanghaty Samity (PCJSS).

PCJSS activists blamed UPDF for the murder.

In another incident, PCJSS activist Bipul Tripura, 32, was killed in a bordering village in Matiranga upaziula on January 23. Critically inured Bipul died

while being taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The latest incident took place on Sunday when a bride, also an activist of Jubo Samity, was killed at his marriage ceremony at Kobakhali Borobridge village.

On the same day, two rival indigenous groups traded fire at Bibonchhara, critically injuring Suchil Kumar Chakma, who is now at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Security forces arrested a UPDF member--Den Chakma- in connection with the incident.

Asked by this correspondent, PCJSS Rangamati district unit secretary Sudakor Tripura said, "Our opponent group might be involved in killing our men".

UPDF district co-ordinator Samari Chakma refuted the allegation and said the incidents were the result of internal feud in PCJSS.

Rangamati Additional Police Superintendent Mohammad Tareq Ahamad said, they are investigating the incidents and combing operation is going on in the areas to arrest the killers.

One dies in jail custody in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An arrestee died here in jail custody yesterday morning.

Rajib who was arrested on charge of his involvement in drug peddling on December 30, died at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical Collage Hospital while in jail custody at about 10-30 am.

However, hospital sources said that he had died of cardiac arrest. But family sources said he died following torture in jail custody.

Meanwhile, army arrested Bogra district Jubo League secretary Sagar Kumar Roy from his Chalsatrapur residence in the district town for his alleged involvement in anti-social activities, police said.

8X3

8X3

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